

the sunlight, margined wherever it is possible
by walnuts,
oaks, lilacs, roses, the *Lastrea dilatata*, and an
entangle-
ment of greenery revelling in spray.

A steep zigzag descent through oak and
pear trees
brought us to the vigorous torrent Ab-i-Sefid
(white water),
one of many of the same name, crossed by
a natural
bridge of shelving rock, slippery from much
use. One of
the Arabs so nearly fell on this that I
dismounted, and
just as I did so Abbas All's mule fell on his
side, and
Screw following did the same, breaking
several things in
the holster.

After crossing a deep ravine Abbas All
sprang back
down the steep to it, and the Sahib, who
was behind,
also ran down with three men to what was
evidently a
disaster. Mirza's mule had fallen over
twenty feet,
rolling over him three times with its load,
hurting his
knee badly. The Sahib said he never saw so
narrow an
escape from a broken neck. The loss of a
bottle con-
taining a quart of milk was the chief
damage. A
little farther up three men were tugging
Hakim up to
the track by the tail. It was a very steep
ascent by
stony broken zigzags and ledges to the fairly
level top of
a spur of the Kala Kuh range, with a high
battlemented
hill behind, at the back of which dwell
robber hordes,
and many Seyyids, who pay no tribute, and
are generally
feared.

At this open, breezy height of 9200 feet
the camps
have been pitched for three days, and of the
many
camping-grounds which we have hitherto

occupied I like
it the best, so lofty is it, so lonely, so
mysterious and
unexplored. It has a glorious view of
tremendous
wooded ravines, down which green waters
glide or
tumble, of small lawn-like plateaux among
woods, and
of green peaks in the foreground, and on
the other side
of the narrow, sinuous valley, several thousand
feet below,